ration, (iv) strengthening of social marketing and community based distribution programmes for contraceptives. (v) signicantly expanding the role and participation of private sector and NGOs, (vi) evolving strong institutional mechanisms for comprehensive monitoring, assessment and operational research, (vii) supporting training activities of service-providers and (viii) evolving models for diffusion of innovative approaches that will have wide applicability throughout India especially in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) Suggestions/comments from various organisations and experts engaged in the task in the Uttar Pradesh State would be taken into account in the process of project development.

AIDS virus in Vijayawada

1000. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 17th February, 1992 under the caption "AIDS virus has the last laugh in Vijayawada";

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained details of this state of affairs in Vijayawada;

(c) what is the exact position in Vijayawada with regard to AIDS;

(d) what specific steps are being taken to attend to the problem there; and

(e) what is the reaction of Andhra Pradesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes. The Government has seen the news article in the question.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Technology mission on population

1001. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a technology mission on population and also introduction of a National Movement for Population Control (NMPC);

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that several organisations including PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also communicated similar views to the Government for population control; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Technology Mission on Population Control. It is felt that considering the multi-dimensional and complex nature of the population problem involving deep-rooted personal beliefs, attitudinal and socio-cultural factors, a Technology Mission approach to the problem would not be feasible.

For the success of the Population Control active involvement of all sections of the people in the programme is of vital importance. Transforming the population control programme into a national movement requires a broad national concensus and commitment of people in all strata of the society. During the past few months, concrete steps have been taken to have a national consensus to meet the challenge of stabilising the population growth in the country. These are summarised below:—

(i) The population problem was discussed in the last meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) where there was unanimity that population control should be kept above

party politics and should receive the highest national priority. A Committee of the NDC has been set up to oversee population issues and evolve a National Population Policy.

(ii) In the Conference of Ministers incharge of Health and Family Welfare of States/UTs held in January, 1992, there was unanimity that population control is of urgent national importance. The Action Plan formulated by the Government, in close consultation with the State Government/Union Territories administration for giving a new thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme was unanimously endorsed for implementation.

(iii) Population Control has been identified as one of the thrust areas in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) Dr. Karan Singh while delivering the 25th Shri Ram Memorial Lecture on "Population: the forgotten factor" under the auspices of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), has also suggested setting up a 'technology mission' on population and introduction of a national movement for population control (NMPC) with immediate effect.

(d) Government's view are already indicated at part (a) and (b) above.

Statutory warning on TOBACCO products

1002. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make "Statutory warning" compulsory to all tobacco products as is being done in the case of cigarettes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Drug for leprosy

1003. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused to offer trials of a new drug for leprosy; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No Sir. The trial for new drug (Ofloxacin) in combination with other drugs for treatment of leprosy has been cleared.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of group B.C. and D posts in A.I.I.M.S.

1004. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received report of Career Development Committee set up in 1986 and Cadre Review Committee set up in 1990 regarding promotion of Group B, C and D posts in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The recommendations made by the Cadre Review Committee have been approved by the Standing Finance Committee and the Governing Body of the